DESTRUCTION OF EGYPTIAN MONUMENTS. The *Athenæum* says:—"Letters from Egypt speak of the increase in the number of persons visiting Upper Egypt and Thebes, during the present year, and of the comfort and facility with which the journey is now made. That these latter do not attract the European traveller in even greater numbers, may surely be wondered at, when we consider into what an antique world they lend, and how busily the antiquarian spirit is now abroad. Another reason that should tempt the traveller to the ruined cities of the Pharaohs is, that the very influences which make them objects of archæological veneration are insuring their gradual disappearance from the eyes of the worshipper. The feeling that makes shrines of them, is the same feeling, unhappily, that induces their desecration. A correspondent of *The Times* speaks of the rapid demolition of the Egyptian monuments, under the travelling mania for carrying away unmeaning fragments—letters of an ancient legend where they stand in their solitudes by the Nile—portions of old and expressive inscriptions over the grave of a dead civilization as read in their places of the desert—in cockney-land mere patches of colour and morsels of stone. Conscious, now, of the immense value, historical and poetical, of these ancient volumes in his keeping—that, like the books of the Sibyl, increase in price as they grow fewer by decay—the pacha has directly prohibited the exportation of antiquities; but a shave of the Sphynx or a chip of the Pyramid defies him; and the peasants in the neighbourhood, taught that there is a harvest standing ready to their hand in the desert, which was sown by their fathers in the old Egyptian time, and asks no toil from them but the gathering, readily lend themselves as labourers to the work of desecration. Against the Vandalism and cupidity of his own provincial governors, who rob the treasure-house of antiquity for the materials of their modern erections, we believe that Mehemet Ali may defend his order for the preservation of these ancient monuments; but the lagmen are as inevitable as Time,—and far more rapid in their operation. These considerations should tempt the European traveller Egyptward; yet, in doing so, will, it may be feared, but increase the evil that is suggested as the temptation.

PRINCIPLES OF ART IN LANDSCAPE GARDENING.—Any creation, to be recognised as a work of art, must be such as can never be mistaken for a work of nature. It is true that art may create a work which shall be mistaken for nature; but in such a case the object created could afford no pleasure as a work of art, because it would be without the first condition, viz., artificialness; or, in other words, that kind of aspect by which art is at once recognised. Much is very properly said about the imitation of nature, because no work whatever could produce an effect upon the human mind, but such as was in accordance with those works from which the human mind receives all its impressions, and to which impressions alone it is accommodated. A work of art, therefore, that is not composed in imitation of, or, in other words, upon the same principles of composition as, the works of nature, can no more give pleasure to the human mind, as at present constituted, than an article not fit to be taken into the stomach as food can give nourishment to the human body. To imitate nature in such a way as that the object produced should be mistaken for nature, could never excite much approbation for the artist, because its very perfection, by deceiving the spectator into a belief of its reality, would prevent it from being considered as a work of art. On the contrary, when an object is imitated in a totally different material from that in which it appears in nature, and the imitation is successful, the applause of the spectator is great in proportion to the degree of skill displayed.—*London.*

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—Following the example of their neighbours the Royals, the Council have determined on permitting the discussion of papers read. We shall have something to say shortly on matters generally in connection with the society.

Devonshire House is undergoing some re-embellishments, including the construction of a new staircase.

CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF WOODS AND WORKS.—Viscount Canning is appointed to this office.

THE GAUGE QUESTION.—The *Great Western Advertiser*, in a sensible article on this subject, says:—We cannot, indeed, without a feeling of regret, contemplate the total abandonment of the broad gauge, or divest ourselves entirely of somewhat of party spirit in its favour, so linked is it in its history, in the *éclat* it has acquired, with our own city (Bristol) and the west generally. Those points in which its superiority is pretty generally acknowledged, presented so much of superficial attractiveness, the roomy luxury of the carriages, the width of the lines, and size of the tunnels, the grandiose character of the whole, together with the fact of a higher average rate of speed being maintained on the broad than on the narrower lines, that to forego them seems like retreating from an important position established in the advance; but viewing the matter in its really important aspects as a purely commercial question, we cannot but admit the policy of resigning advantages, which could only be maintained at a greatly more than equivalent cost. The point decided against the advisability of permitting the extension of the broad gauge system, the next question to be disposed of, was, whether the broad lines, already in operation, should continue as they are, or be altered to accord with the general standard; and if the latter, at whose expense? For them to continue as they are, would be an inconvenience to the public, and we believe not advantageous to the respective companies, on account of the isolation of the lines, caused by the break of gauge; and were it not for the expense attendant upon the alteration, we have no doubt that the shareholders in the broad gauge lines would benefit by the change.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

[We are compelled by the interference of the Stamp Office to omit the names of the parties to whom tenders, &c., are to be addressed. For the convenience of our readers, however, they are entered in a book, and may be seen on application at the offices of "The Builder," 2, York-street, Covent-garden.]

For supplying her Majesty's Dockyards with Soft Melting Pig Iron.

For Warming the County Prison, Fisherton Anger, Salisbury. The visiting magistrates are also willing to receive new plans for effecting the same object.

For supplying the East-India Company with British Iron.

For the execution of Works on the Leeds and Thirsk Railway, being the Pannal contract. In length 12,445 yards.

For Paving and Repairing the Carriage-ways and Footways in the parish of St. Paul, Covent-garden, and providing Materials for the same.

For the Repair of the Foot and Carriage-ways of New Church-street, Bermondsey.

For the execution of Works on the South Wales Railway, being a length of about 14 miles, including tunnels, and a large amount of earth-work.

For supplying her Majesty's Victualling Stores at Deptford, for twelve months certain, with truss hoops.

For New Paving and Repairing the Footways in the parish of St. Mary, Islington.

For executing the Repairs of the Chancel of St. Mary's Church, Bury St. Edmunds.

APPROACHING SALES OF WOOD, &c.

BY AUCTION.

Upon the Abbey Estate, Ixwood, Suffolk: a large quantity of capital young oak, ash, poplar, and larch trees.

At Eye, Suffolk: 30 oak, ash, fir, willow, and beech timber trees of upland growth, &c.

At Lett's Wharf, Lambeth: an extensive stock of well-seasoned Baltic oak and wainscot planks, Quebec oak ditto, &c.

At 89, John-street, Tottenham-court-road. Spanish and Honduras mahogany in logs, planks, boards, and veneers; rosewood, cedar, wainscot, deals, beech, &c.

At The Bull Inn, Attleborough, Norfolk: 216 oak, ash, elm, and other timber trees, now growing.

At Bottisham Hall, Cambridge: the annual sale, consisting of maple, ash, elm, beech, and other timber trees.

On the Upware Farm, at Wicken, Mildenhall: 200 ash, elm, willow, and poplar trees, of excellent quality, and varying in size to 30 feet.

At Chobham, three miles from the Woking station: South-Western Railway: 186 elm, 20 ash, and 85 oak timber trees, &c.

At the Crown Inn, Langford Budville, Somerset: 100 maiden oak, 30 maiden ash, 30 maiden elm, and 5 maiden beech timber trees, &c. They are of large dimensions, and excellent quality.

On the Benaire-hall Estate, near Wrentham: a quantity of ash, fir, and oak stands, poles, &c.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"J. C. (Guildford)."—*We have not Mr. Leonard's address.*

"Curb Stones, Paris."—*We shall avail ourselves of the sketch obligingly sent.*

"New Cross Turnpike-Road Trust."—*The clerks are Messrs. Smith and Finch, Crooms-hill, Greenwich.*

"Sliding Doors."—*A correspondent wishes to know "the best method of hanging barn doors to slide, and where there are any good examples to be seen. I am informed the sliding principle has been adopted to the barn doors of several of our first-rate or model farmeries of recent erection. Several methods of the sort are in use at the railway stations."*

"Cost of Railways."—*T. R. asks, "What is a fair price for laying down a permanent line of rails on railway, labour only?"*

"A. B."—*We might mislead by replying without fuller knowledge of the circumstances. If the old wall is to become a party-wall, it must of course be made of the thickness required for the larger building. Query, can the building be placed there at all?*

Next Week: "W. Y." "Mr. Scoles on the Parthenon." "Reply as to Gradients."

Received: "J. L.," "J. R." (Brighton), "Companion to the Fourth Edition of Glossary of Terms used in Gothic Architecture," &c. (J. H. Parker, Oxford), "Ecclesiologist" for March (Rivington), Haselden's "Designs as manufactured in Papier Maché," "Westminster Review" for March.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

TO ARCHITECTS, BUILDERS, & BRICK MAKERS.

PUMPS of Superior CONSTRUCTION, bored perfectly true by improved machinery, in various plain and ornamental patterns for Conservatories, Squares, Market Places, Roads, Gardens, and for Liquid Manure. BRICKMAKERS' PUMPS, in Wrought and Cast Iron. HYDRAULIC LIFT PUMPS, and ENGINES for Wells of any depth. SINGLE and DOUBLE PUMPS up to 12-inch bore, kept for Hire.

BENJ. FOWLER, 83, Dorset-street, Fleet-street.

ENCAUSTIC, VENETIAN, and other PATENT TILES and MOSAIC PAVEMENTS may be purchased at MINTON and Co.'s warehouse, 9, Albion-place, Surrey side of Blackfriars-bridge.—Wyatt, Parker, and Co., Agents. The above tiles have lately been considerably reduced in price.

N.B. An assortment of plain and ornamental door furniture, slabs, and tiles for fire-places, &c.

ORNAMENTAL TILES FOR COVERING BUILDINGS.

ROBERT BROWNE'S newly-invented CURVED ITALIAN TILES, for which invention the Society of Arts and Sciences awarded a medal. The Gothic Grooved Ridge Tile, with vertical ornaments, invented by R. B. in 1849; also a variety of plain Gothic Ridge Tiles adapted for tile or slate coverings; ornamental Plain Tiles of various patterns.

Tiles form in winter a warmer and in summer a cooler covering than slates or metal, and may be burnt of any desired colour. Address ROBERT BROWN, Tile Works, Surbiton Hill, near Kingston, Surrey.

HIP TILES to suit slate roofs in colour; Ridges, with plain or rebated joints, roll tops, and vertical ornaments; drains, many sizes, with plain or socket joints; paving in squares, hexagons, octagons, &c., different colours; roofing, in Grecian or Italian styles, other devices also, or plain; conduits, which do not injure pure water; fire-bricks and tiles; clinkers, and out-door paving; sundry wall-coping, garden-borders, chimney-tops; also tubular and other tiles of peculiar material. No agents, but a depot at 22, WHITEFRIARS-STREET, FLEET-STREET, LONDON, under Mr. PEAKE'S personal care, to supply genuine TERRO-METALLIC goods at fair prices as per quality; also additional Stock at No. 4 Wharf, Macclesfield-street, South, City Basin.

The TILERIES, TUNSTALL, STAFFORDSHIRE, are near the centre of England, whence boats are sent direct to any inland place; or to the Mersey for the coasts, the colonies, and elsewhere.

THE CAMPAIGN on the SUTLEJ creating immense interest at the present moment, there is exhibiting at the ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION, Portraits of the most distinguished Men both in the SIKH ARMY and GOVERNMENT of LAHORE, taken by a lady of rank, distinguished in the Fine Arts, during her residence in India. By means of the OPAQUE MICROSCOPE, these interesting Portraits are on a magnificent scale. Mornings, at Half-past Four o'clock; Evenings at a Quarter to Ten. The LECTURES include those on ASTRONOMY, during Lent on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, COLEMAN'S WORKING MODEL ascending and descending Inclined Planes, &c. &c. &c. Admission, 1s.; Schools, Half-price.

ROYAL ADELAIDE GALLERY.—Grand new Series of Novelties.—This Day, March 4, and during the week, les PETITES DANSEUSES ANGLAISES, or Band of Infant Figurantes, will commence their engagement. The American Palmer, the most celebrated Nigger Melodist and Banjo Player of the day, will also make his first appearance: Professor Morris and his infant Sons will introduce the Classical and gymnastic evolutions in the style of Professor Risley, and Mr. J. Russell will give his new entertainment entitled Table Talk. The vocalists have been increased in number, and arrangements have been completed for giving a grand vocal and instrumental Concert, in addition to the other attractions, every evening: the Gas Microscope, Chromatrope, Dissolving Views, Chemical Lectures, and the Atmospheric Railways, morning and evening.

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